

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 EB-07 IGA-01 CIAE-00

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USIA-06 AGR-05 COME-00 /067 W

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R 230900Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2584

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOGADISCIO 0127

DEPT ALSO PASS AID/PHA/FDRC

ROME FOR FODAG (SKILES)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID SOCI SO

SUBJECT: SOMALI DROUGHT

REFERENCES: A. STATE 13821 (NOTAL)

B. ROME 0927 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE OUTLINES BASIC FRAMEWORK IN WHICH WE FEEL USG SHOULD APPROACH SOMALI DROUGHT AND COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC QUESTIONS RAISED REF. A. END SUMMARY.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT A CONSIDERATION WHICH IS BASIC TO OUR APPROACH TO SOMALI DROUGHT SITUATION IS THAT THE PROBLEM, WHILE BIG FOR SOMALIA, IS RELATIVELY SMALL SCALE IN GLOBAL TERMS. MAGNITUDE OF EFFORT AND SUPPLIES NEEDED DOES NOT RPT NOT COMPARE WITH
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THAT FOR SOUTH ASIA, SAHEL OR EVEN ETHIOPIA. FURTHER-

MORE, SOMALIA'S MILITARY GOVERNMENT HAS CONSIDERABLE ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY. PEOPLE ARE USED TO TAKING ORDERS, TO HAVING THEIR RESOURCES COMMANDEERED FOR GOVERNMENT PROJECTS AND LIVING ON VERY LITTLE. PRIDE AND A BELIEF IN SELF-HELP IS BASIC TO THIS REGIME'S CREDO AND TO SOMALI CHARACTER. THEIR FUNDAMENTAL APPROACH TO DROUGHT IS "GIVE US THE TOOLS AND WE CAN DO THE JOB". DONORS SHOULD WORK WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK, BOTH FOR SAKE OF HARMONIOUS AND PRODUCTIVE RELATIONS WITH SOMALI GOVERNMENT AND TO PRESERVE COMMENDABLE SOMALI

INITIATIVE AND DRIVE. BELIEVE WE HAVE ENOUGH ACCESS TO SOMALI GOVERNMENT AND SITUATION ON SPOT TO KNOW IF SOMALI FACILITIES ARE REALLY IN DANGER OF GETTING OVERWHELMED IN TIME TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

3. IT IS DOUBLY IMPORTANT FOR US TO TAILOR ITS ACTIVITIES TO CONSIDERATIONS GIVEN ABOVE. MANY IN GSDR ARE STILL SUSPICIOUS OF US AND ITS MOTIVES. THEY REMEMBER PERIOD WHEN AMERICAN PRESENCE SEEMED WELL NIGH OVERWHELMING WITH DISTASTE, EVEN THOUGH INDIVIDUAL

AMERICANS WERE GENERALLY LIKED. THESE SUSPICIONS ARE CONTINUALLY FED BY SOVIETS AND OTHERS WHO OPPOSE US-SOMALI RAPPROCHEMENT. ANY US ACTIVITIES WHICH COULD BE DISTORTED BY THESE FORCES AS EVIDENCE OF AN ATTEMPT BY US TO "TAKE OVER" AGAIN WILL BE EXPLOITED BY THEM AND WILL FEED RESENTMENT.

4. THUS, WE FEEL THAT US ROLE SHOULD BE KEPT IN BACKGROUND AND PARTICULARLY THAT US MANPOWER PRESENCE WHETHER A GOVERNMENT OR VOLUNTARY AGENCY SHOULD BE KEPT TO ABSOLUTE MINIMUM. FURTHERMORE, THERE ARE MANY POTENTIAL SOURCE OF AID FROM COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE CLOSER RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA THEN DOES US. WITH OUR PROSPECTIVE GIFT OF 15,080 TONS OF GRAIN, US WILL

ALREADY HAVE DONE THREE TIMES AS MUCH AS NEXT INDIVIDUAL DONOR. THIS BEFITS OUR HUMANITARIAN TRADITIONS, CONFIDENTIAL

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OUR FOOD RESERVES AND OUR ORGANIZATIONAL ABILITIES. WE BELIEVE THIS IS A SUFFICIENT LARGE-SCALE EFFORT FOR THE PRESENT. WE SUCH CONTINUE TO GIVE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION ON CASE BY CASE BASIS TO SPOT REQUESTS, SUCH AS THE RECENT ONE FOR BLANKETS, BUT WE BELIEVE

SOMALIS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO GET IN HABIT OF TURNING TO US FOR EVERY NEW REQUIREMENT OR BEGIN

TO ASSUME WE WILL MEET ALL SUCH REQUESTS. THIS WOULD
TAKE HEAT OFF OTHER DONORS AND REDUCE IMPACT OF HELP
WE DO GIVE.

5. WITH THIS IN MIND, WE HAVE FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY

COMMENTS ON QUESTIONS RAISED IN REF. A.

A. SOMALIA WILL BE RECEIVING SUBSTANTIAL GRAIN SHIPMENTS
BETWEEN NOW AND END OF APRIL. WHEN WE RAISED RECEPTION,
STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION PROBLEM WITH COMMISSIONER OF
NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE, HE SAID THESE CONSIDERATIONS MIGHT
MAKE IT PREFERABLE FOR US GRAIN SHIPMENT TO ARRIVE AFTER END OF
APRIL. HE PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THIS PROBLEM AND GIVE US MORE
CONSIDERED OPINION. WE HAVE ALSO ASKED VISITING
UNDRO EXPERT STANISSIS TO LOOK INTO THIS PROBLEM AND
WILL REPORT HIS FINDINGS. BELIEVE WE CAN REPORT ADEQUATELY
ON RECEIPT OF USG TITLE II FOOD. SOMALIA HAS
LIMITED NUMBER OF PORTS, AND QUANTITIES INVOLVED ARE MODEST.
WE HAVE LOCAL EMPLOYEE WITH GOOD ENTRY INTO PORT CIRCLES,
AND GS DR APPEARS WILLING TO HAVE US PERFORM THIS FUNCTION.
MONITORING USE OF TITLE II FOOD MAY BE MORE DIFFICULT. WE THINK
WE WILL BE ABLE TO DO SOME OF IT AND THAT WFP CAN AND SHOULD
HELP IN THIS REGARD.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MOGADISCIO 0127

DEPT ALSO PASS AID/PHA/FDRC

ROME FOR FODAG (SKILES)

B. WE UNDERSTAND BLANKETS ARRIVING JANUARY 27.

C. GSDR WILL BE MUCH MORE AMENABLE TO COMMODITY SUPPORT FROM VOLAGS THAN TO THEIR ASSISTANCE IN RUNNING CAMPS. WE DO NOT RPT NOT THINK GSDR NEEDS HELP IN CAMP ORGANIZATION. THERE MIGHT BE SOME ROLE FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL PERSONNELGN BUT THIS WILL DEPEND UPON GSDR WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THEM. WE FEEL IT MUCH PREFERABLE FOR VOLAGS TO BE APPROACHED BY SOMALI REPRESENTATIVES, SUCH AS AMBASSADOR ADDOU, THAN FOR USG TO DO SO. HERE AGAIN, WE MUST AVOID GETTING OUT IN FRONT OF SOMALIS. WE ARE ALSO SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT VOLAG PARTICIPATION MAY LEAD TO FRAGMENTATION OF EFFORT AND INCREASED DIFFICULTIES OF DONOR COORDINATION. APPEARS TO US IT MIGHT BE BEST TO CHANNEL VOLAG EFFORTS THROUGH WFP, UNICEF AND/OR RED CRESCENT. VAN HOOGSTRAATEN VISIT MIGHT BE OF VALUE BUT WE STRONGLY CONFIDENTIAL

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FEEL HE SHOULD BE INVITED BY SOMALIS, NOT RPT NOT BY US. IF ADDOU DOES NOT RPT NOT EXTEND INVITATION, WE OR WFP HERE MIGHT INFORM SOMALIS OF HIS PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA AND OF POSSIBILITY HE COULD COME TO SOMALIA IF THEY WISH IT.

D. OUR BASIC APPROACH TO PROBLEM OUTLINED IN ITITAL PARAGRAPHS OF THIS MESSAGE IS PARTICULARLY GERMANE TO SNYDER TRIP. US HAS JUST INFORMED SOMALIS THAT WE CONSIDERING SUPPLYING 15,00 TONS OF GRAIN AND HAS ASKED ABOUT THEIR VIEWS ON PROPOSED GRAIN MIX. SOMALIS ARE WELL PLEASED. BELIEVE WE SHOULD LET THIS ACTION SINK IN BEFORE WE BRING IN AN AID EXPERT WHOSE ARRIVAL MAKES SENSE PRIMARILY IN TERMS OF WHAT ELSE THE US CAN DO. WE WOULD HOPE THAT SOME OF CONTRIBUTION WHICH SNYDER COULD MAKE TO EMBASSY AND AID/W APPRAISAL OF SITUATION COULD BE DERIVED FROM UNDR0 EXPERT STANISSIS WHO ARRIVED JANUARY 21 FOR TEN-DAY VISIT, URING WHICH HE WILL VISIT MANY DIFFERENT CAMPS AND HAVE EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONSWITH SOMALI OFFICIALS. THUS, HILE WE KNOW THAT WE COULD BENEFIT FROM A TRIP BY SNYDER, WE WOULD PREFER TO DEFER THIS FOR PRESENT.

E. LATEST FIGURES FOR CAMP POPULATION ARE ABOUT 16,000. ADDRESSEES WILL NOTE THAT, WHEN COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS FIGURE (150,000 JANUARY 14), THIS REPRESENTS SUBSTANTIALY

LESS THAN 4,000 MAN DAILY INCREASE PROJECTED BY SOMALIS. WE
CANNOT RPT NOT BE SURE WHETHER THIS REPRESENTS PERMANENT FALLING
OFF OF RATE OF INCREASE, AND ESTIMATES OF TOTAL FUTURE POPU-
LATION ARE VERY DIFFICULT TO MAKE. HOWEVER, WE VERY
MUCH DOUBT THAT CAMP POPULATION WILL REACH FIGURE OF
700,000 CITED BY SOMALIS (THIS WOULD MEAN ONE OUT OF
EVERY FOUR OR FIVE SOMALIS IN CAMP). WE ARE MORE INCLINED TO
THINK 300 TO 400 THOUSAND IS ABOUT RIGHT. WE WILL BE
DISCUSSING THIS WITH STANISSIS AND GSDR AND WILL GIVE
A FURTHER ESTIMATE SUBSEQUENTLY.
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